

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Moscow Oblast)
SUBJECT Soviet Aircraft Observed Near Moscow/Tushino
Airfield

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1. In the summer of 1949, source occasionally saw a helicopter with a two-man crew. Two contrarotating three-bladed rotors were fitted above the cockpit. Source could not state definitely whether another rotor was fitted at the rear of the craft. *
2. About the same time an all-wing plane towed by a twin-engine aircraft was seen. (2) The towed plane had a landing skid, stabilizing disks fitted at the wing tips and a fuselage mounted on the wings. Since the wing spars were clearly visible, source thought that the plane had a fabric cover. After being released, the plane descended quickly, landing before the towing aircraft. The single pilot of the released plane was clearly visible. **

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* [REDACTED] Comment. The existence of a Soviet helicopter fitted with two coaxial rotors has not been confirmed. The helicopter fitted with two additional radial engines as observed previously may be concerned. For sketch of helicopter, see Annex 1.

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* [REDACTED] Comment. The glider may have been the Soviet Bich-22 type glider, flight tested by I.A. Petrov, chief of the DOSAV glider section, in September 1946. This plane is an all-wing glider designed by Boris Ivanovich Chernakovsk, who has specialized in flying wings. The first design of Chernakovsk was the Bich-1 Paratola, a plane with parabolic wings designed in 1924. The present report may be considered as correcting previous information concerning the same type of plane. See Annex 1 for sketch of glider. The Bich-22 has a wing span of 7½ meters, a wing surface of 14 square meters and an empty weight of 150 kg. These data were gathered from the Czech aviation publication Letectvi, issue of 7 March 1949. See Annex 2 for sketch of Bich-22.

Attachments:

1. Sketches of Soviet gliders seen near Moscow/Tushino.
2. Sketch of a Soviet Bich-22 type glider.

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